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The Egg Products Inspection Act ... *in brief*

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Consumer & Marketing Service
February 1971

Why

have an Egg Products Inspection Act? The Act was passed by Congress to assure wholesome, unadulterated, and truthfully labeled egg products for consumers and to restrict the use of certain types of shell eggs.

What

does it do? It provides for the mandatory continuous inspection of plants processing egg products, whether shipping in intrastate, interstate, or foreign commerce. This means that all facilities and sanitary practices in these plants will have to be approved and operations will have to be under the supervision of a licensed Federal or State inspector at all times. The Act requires that certain types of restricted eggs (incubator rejects and inedible, loss, or leaking eggs) be destroyed or denatured to prevent their use as human food and that other types (checked and dirty eggs) be shipped to an official egg products plant where proper segregation and disposition can be made by an official inspector. It also requires that imported egg products be inspected under an approved foreign inspection system and meet the same requirements as domestic egg products. Imported shell eggs are also controlled. The Act provides for cooperation with State governments

in carrying out its provisions. It also provides that States cannot require standards for shell eggs in interstate commerce which are different from Federal standards. The Act will be administered by the Poultry Division, Consumer and Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Who

is exempted? The Act exempts:

- egg processing by plants which receive or break only clean, sound eggs. These plants must meet USDA sanitary requirements for facilities and operating procedures and must apply for and receive an exemption number.

- the processing and sale of eggs or egg products by any producer from his own flocks directly to a household consumer.

- the sale of eggs by a producer with a flock of 3,000 or less hens.

- the sale, transport, possession or use of eggs which meet U.S. consumer grades.

- sale of eggs directly to household consumers by a packing plant on its own premises.

When

is the deadline? The Act became law on Dec. 29, 1970. The provisions af-

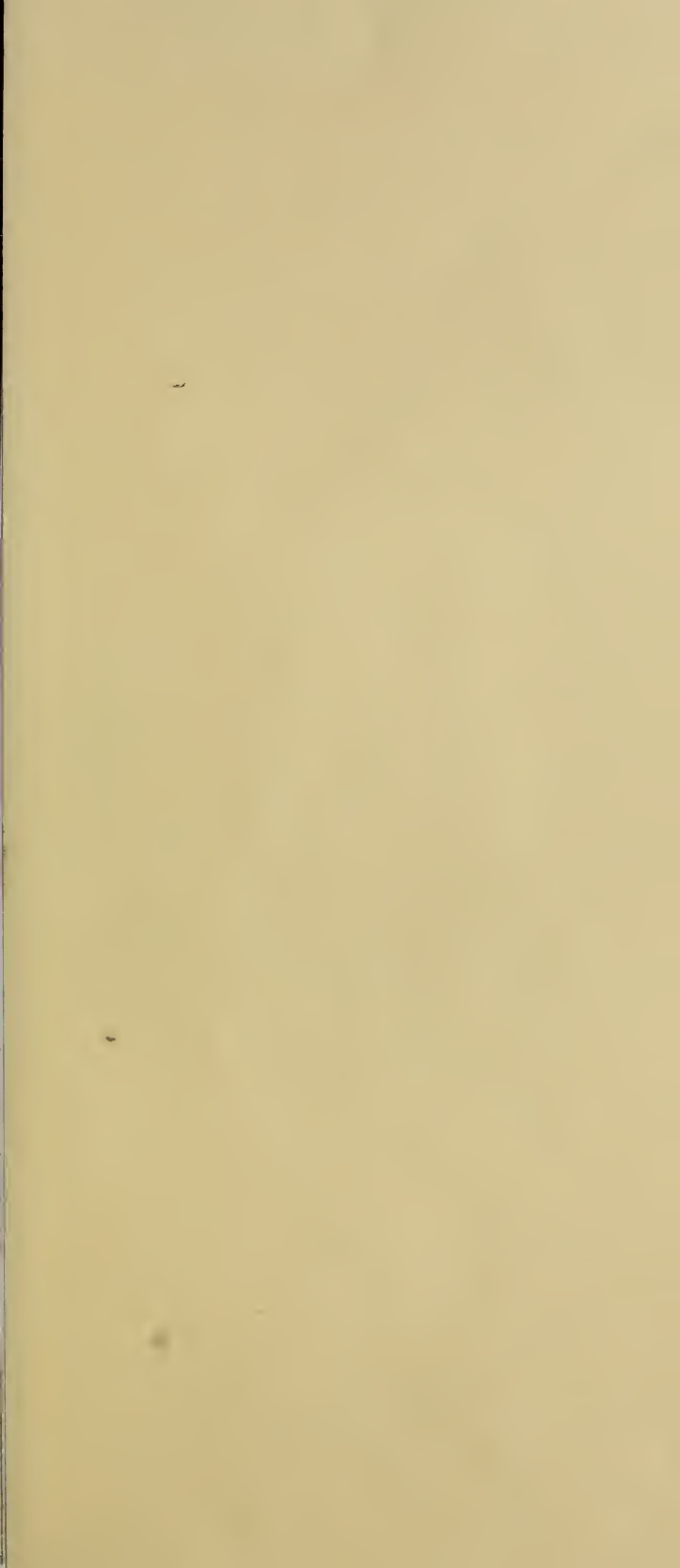
fecting processors of egg products will take effect on July 1, 1971. The other provisions, for shell eggs, take effect on July 1, 1972.

How

can you obtain inspection? All egg products processors should apply as soon as possible to an area office of the Poultry Division of USDA's Consumer and Marketing Service (see back). Each applicant will receive application forms, a copy of present USDA regulations, and an information sheet describing the drawings and specifications to submit. Representatives in area offices are available to aid applicants in planning for operations under the Act.

Mandatory inspection, under the act, will be provided on or after July 1, 1971. Inspection will be conducted by licensed Federal or State employees and will be paid for by the United States. However, plants will be billed for overtime and holiday work. Those plants already operating under the voluntary USDA inspection program will no longer pay for the service.

The inspection program requires plant approval, specifies operating procedures, requires that all egg products be pasteurized, and provides for testing of the finished products.



Where

can you write for assistance?

Contact:

Eastern Area Grading Office
Area Supervisor
1006 U.S. Custom House
2nd & Chestnut Sts.
Philadelphia, Pa. 19106
Phone: (215) 597-4554

if you are in:

Connecticut	New Jersey
Delaware	New York
District of Columbia	North Carolina
Florida	Pennsylvania
Georgia	Puerto Rico
Maine	Rhode Island
Maryland	South Carolina
Massachusetts	Vermont
New Hampshire	Virginia
	West Virginia

Contact:

East Midwest Area Grading Office
Area Supervisor
Room 803, U.S. Custom House
610 S. Canal St.
Chicago, Ill. 60607
Phone: (312) 353-6226

if you are in:

Alabama	Michigan
Arkansas	Mississippi
Illinois	Ohio
Indiana	Tennessee
Kentucky	Wisconsin
Louisiana	

Contact:

West Midwest Area Grading Office
Area Supervisor
Room 777, New Federal Building
210 Walnut St.
Des Moines, Iowa 50309
Phone: (515) 284-4581

if you are in:

Colorado	New Mexico
Iowa	North Dakota
Kansas	Oklahoma
Minnesota	South Dakota
Missouri	Texas
Nebraska	

Contact:

Western Area Grading Office
Area Supervisor
Room 807, U.S. Appraisers Bldg.
630 Sansome St.
San Francisco, Calif. 94111
Phone: (415) 556-6488

if you are in:

Alaska	Nevada
Arizona	Oregon
California	Utah
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